

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 219087
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:T.MARTIN

APPROVED BY S/S-O:T. MARTIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 219087

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOL RPT CAIRO 15265 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 13 SEP 77

QUOTE: S E C R E T CAIRO 15265

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: MARR, US, EG, IT

SUBJECT: MIG MAINTENANCE AND THE CONGRESS

REF: STATE 218661

1. REFTTEL JUST RECEIVED. SINCE SADAT IS STILL IN
CANAL ZONE, I HAVE NO WAY OF GETTING MESSAGE DIRECTLY
TO HIM. HENCE, I CONTACTED FAHMY AT HIS HOME ON
SECURE PHONE AND TOLD HIM OF TOMORROW'S HAMILTON SUB-
COMMITTEE HEARING IN WHICH HARD QUESTIONS ARE LIKELY
TO BE ASKED RE PLANS FOR MAINTENANCE OF EGYPTIAN MIG
SECRET

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AIRCRAFT. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO SATISFY LEGITIMATE
CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THIS MATTER WHILE AT SAME
TIME RESPECTING POLITICAL AND MILITARY SENSITIVITIES
OF GOE.

2. I INDICATED ROY ATHERTON WILL BE TESTIFYING AND GAVE
HIM DETAILS OF OUR PLANS FOR HANDLING ISSUE (PARA 3 A-F).

TOLD HIM THAT, IN OUR JUDGMENT, THIS IS BEST WAY TO
HANDLE SUBJECT WITH DUE REGARD TO CONCERNS OF ALL
PARTIES INVOLVED. I ASKED THAT HE GET WORD OF THIS
TO THE PRESIDENT ASAP.

3. FAHMY ASKED IF WE ARE INFORMING THE ITALIANS.
I TOLD HIM WE ARE DOING SO, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT IN
SPEAKING OF THIRD COUNTRIES, WE ARE NOT MENTIONING
ITALY BY NAME.

4. FAHMY THEN SAID THAT HE HAD NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE.
HE ASKED, HOWEVER, THAT ATHERTON NOT VOLUNTEER THIS
INFORMATION. IF HE IS PUSHED HARD ON THE SUBJECT AND IS
UNABLE TO DIVERT THE INQUIRY, THEN THE ANSWERS WE PROPOSE
MIGHT BE GIVEN. ASSURED HIM THIS IS SOLE BASIS ON WHICH ATHERTON
WILL MAKE POINTS. FAHMY UNDERTOOK TO LET THE PRESIDENT KNOW
SOON AS HE NEXT SEES HIM (THIS MAY NOT BE FOR A DAY OR TWO).
WHILE FAHMY WOULD OBVIOUSLY PREFER THAT NOTHING BE SAID, IT
WAS CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT OVERLY CONCERNED IF SUCH A DIS-
CLOSURE HAS TO BE MADE.

5. RE PARA REFTTEL, IN UK AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE ON LEAVE,
HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH UK CHARGE MOON. HE WILL COME BY
TOMORROW MORNING, AT WHICH TIME I WILL BRIEF HIM.

EILTS

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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